

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

determining, with an instant messaging client and utilizing a processor that is executing the instant messaging client, an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message in response to displaying the email message to a user, wherein the determining comprises comparing an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieving an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then using the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present at the time that the email message is displayed to the user; and

initiating, by utilizing the processor that is executing the instant messaging client, an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the IM chat session comprises:

generating an IM chat window;
obtaining information from the email message; and
displaying the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining information from the email message comprises:

obtaining a subject of the email message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein displaying the obtained information comprises:
displaying the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein displaying the subject of the email message comprises:
providing the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein obtaining information from the email message comprises:
obtaining a body of the email message.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein displaying the obtained information comprises:
displaying the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein displaying the body of the email message comprises:
providing the body of the email message as an IM chat message.

9. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

means for determining, with an instant messaging client and utilizing a processor that is executing the instant messaging client, an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message in response to displaying the email message to a user, wherein the means for determining compares an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieves an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then uses the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present at the time that the email message is displayed to the user; and

means for initiating, with the instant messaging client and utilizing the processor that is executing the instant messaging client, initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.

10. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

presence logic of an instant messaging client and utilizing the processor that is executing the instant messaging client, configured to determine an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message in response to displaying the email message to a user, wherein the presence logic compares an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieves an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then uses the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present at the time that the email message is displayed to the user; and

chat-initiation logic of the instant messaging client and utilizing the processor that is executing the instant messaging client, configured to initiate an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determine that the contact is present.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
chat-window-generation logic configured to generate an IM chat window;
information-retrieval logic configured to obtain information from the email message;
and
display logic configured to display the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.
12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
subject-retrieval logic configured to obtain a subject of the email message.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
subject-display logic configured to display the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
14. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium being embedded with computer instructions for causing a computing device to ~~perform the steps of:~~
instruct a programmable device to determine, at an instant messaging client, an Internet presence of a contact from an email message in response to displaying the email message to a user, wherein the determining comprises comparing an email address of the contact to an address book database and retrieving an instant messaging address of the contact from the address book database, and then using the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present at the time that the email message is displayed to the user; and
instruct a programmable device to initiate, at an instant messaging client, an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate an IM chat window;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain information from the email message; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a subject of the email message.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a body of the email message.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the body of the email message as an IM chat message.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the Internet presence includes presence of a user on an instant messaging account.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein multiple instant messaging addresses of the contact are stored in order of priority in the address book database.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the order of priority is based on the user arranging each instant messaging address in order of the user's preference.